Serial No.: 10/644,500 Attorney Docket No.: 026403.00272

Response filed with RCE

Reply to Office Action of January 27, 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A method for the preparation of sevoflurane which comprises:

- (a) providing a liquid mixture of (CF₃)₂CHOCH₂Cl, hydrogen flouride, and an amine; and
 - (b) reacting the mixture to form $(CF_3)_2CHOCH_2F$.
- 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the mixture is reacted by heating.
- 3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the mixture is reacted by heating at 40°C to 80°C.
- 4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the mixture is reacted by heating at 55°C to 65°C.
- 5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the amine is selected from a primary amine, a secondary amine, or a tertiary amine.
- 6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the amine is selected from propylamine or diethylamine.
- 7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the amine is a tertiary amine.
- 8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the tertiary amine is a trialkylamine.
- 9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the trialkylamine is selected from triethylamine, tripropylamine, triisopropylamine, tributylamine, dimethyl ethyl amine, di-isopropyl ethyl amine, or mixtures thereof.

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10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the amine is a cyclic amine.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the cyclic amine is selected from pyrrolidine, N-methyl pyrrolidine, or piperidine.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the mixture comprises (CF₃)₂CHOCHCl₂.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the mixture comprises from 0.01 to 20 percent by weight of (CF₃)₂CHOCHCl₂.

Claims 14-17 (Cancelled).

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the mole ratio of the (CF₃)₂CHOCH₂Cl to the hydrogen flouride is from 1:1 to 1:2.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the mole ratio of the (CF₃)₂CHOCH₂Cl to the amine is from 1:0.3 to 1:2.

20. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the mixture is reacted for 4 to 12 hours.

21. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the mixture is reacted for 4 to 10 hours.

22. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the mixture is reacted for 4 to 7 hours.

23. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the yield of the reaction is at least 50 percent.

24. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the yield of the reaction is at least 65 percent.

Claims 25-42 (Cancelled).